

## REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE

AFRL-SR-BL-TR-01-

ved  
t-0188

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Washington Headquarters Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington, VA 22202-4302, and to the Office of Management and Budget

existing data sources,  
other aspect of this  
parts, 1215 Jefferson  
DC 20503.

1. AGENCY USE ONLY (Leave blank)		2. REPORT DATE	3. Final 15 Jun 95 to 14 Jun 98
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE AASERT-95 Femtosecond Near-Field Spin Microscopy of Magnetic/Superconducting Heterostructures			5. FUNDING NUMBERS 3484/US 61103D
6. AUTHOR(S) Dr David Awschalom			
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) University of California, Santa Barbara Quantum Institute Santa Barbara, CA 93106-5100			8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) Air Force Office of Scientific Research 801 N. Randolph Street Arlington, VA 22203-1977			10. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY REPORT NUMBER  F49620-95-1-0434
11. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES			
12a. DISTRIBUTION AVAILABILITY STATEMENT Unlimited Distribution			
13. ABSTRACT (Maximum 200 words)  Under the AASERT program, our student developed magnetically active II-VI diluted magnetic semiconductor (DMS) surface quantum well "substrates" upon which to epitaxially grow and pattern ferromagnetic Fe films in order to produce spin-dependent potentials. This material phase produced a variety of flux-focusing magnetic patterns including planar wedges and variable-spaced single domain particle arrays with nominally 0.1-0.5 micron feature sizes. These patterns are designed to create a field-driven spin-dependent energy landscape for optically-pumped or doped carriers and provide a basis for spatial measurements of electronic spin transport.			
14. SUBJECT TERMS			15. NUMBER OF PAGES
			16. PRICE CODE
17. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF REPORT  Unclassified	18. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE  Unclassified	19. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF ABSTRACT  Unclassified	20. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT  UL

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**AFOSR-AASERT Final Technical Report**  
**Grant #F49620-95-1-0434**

*Femtosecond Near-field Spin Microscopy of Magnetic/Superconducting Heterostructures*

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In contrast to embedding magnetic moments within a semiconductor heterostructure, it is important to demonstrate an ability to guide spin-dependent transport using field gradients from magnetic films grown upon a semiconductor heterostructure. The spin-dependent properties of these magnetically-patterned nanostructures is presently being resolved using both near-field scanning optical microscopy (NSOM) and magnetotransport studies. Under the AASERT program, our student developed magnetically active II-VI diluted magnetic semiconductor (DMS) surface quantum well "substrates" upon which to epitaxially grow and pattern ferromagnetic Fe films in order to produce spin-dependent potentials. This material phase produced a variety of flux-focusing magnetic patterns including planar wedges and variable-spaced single domain particle arrays with nominally 0.1-0.5 micron feature sizes. These patterns are designed to create a field-driven spin-dependent energy landscape for optically-pumped or doped carriers and provide a basis for spatial measurements of electronic spin transport. Both insulating and conducting substrates have been prepared for the optical and transport measurements.

We have grown hybrid ferromagnetic-DMS quantum well structures by depositing typically 50 nm thick epitaxial films of Fe on top of a single ~ 12 nm quantum well containing 3 monolayers of Mn ions. Figure 1 shows an example of a recent result in collaboration with Dr. Gary Prinz of the Naval Research Laboratory. This wet-etched single-crystal Fe film was processed using a newly developed chemical technique, *without any electronic degradation of the underlying semiconductor heterostructure.*

Fig. 1. Magnetic force microscopy image of a 5 micron hole etched through a 50 nm-thick crystalline Fe film grown upon a 12 nm ZnSe/ZnCdSe quantum well containing 12-1/4 monolayer MnSe planes (a digital magnetic heterostructure). At  $B=0$ , star-shaped domain walls form to minimize the free-energy of the in-plane field, creating large field gradients at the edges of the hole. For  $B>3$  G, the domain walls sweep away leaving very large gradients around



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